



Woodstock Fire/Rescue District

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News Release: Woodstock Welcomes Firefighters from Zacatecas, Mexico

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The Woodstock Fire/Rescue District was honored to host four firefighters from Zacatecas, Mexico, who recently completed a two-week visit to Illinois as part of an international exchange program. During their time here, the visiting firefighters shadowed both the Village of Carpentersville Department of Public Safety and the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District, working side by side with local crews to observe emergency operations and participate in training activities.

The program is designed to broaden the knowledge and experience of all participants by exchanging techniques, strengthening skills, and exposing firefighters to new approaches in emergency response. While the Zacatecas firefighters gained exposure to local fire suppression, rescue, and emergency medical practices, Woodstock personnel also had the opportunity to learn from their visiting counterparts, reinforcing the shared value of international collaboration.

Beyond professional development, the exchange underscores the universal commitment of firefighters everywhere to protect lives and safeguard communities. By building partnerships across borders, fire service agencies not only enhance their own readiness but also contribute to stronger, safer communities at home and abroad.

"These two weeks were valuable for everyone involved. The visiting firefighters leave with new skills and experiences, and our members gained a deeper understanding of how fire service professionals operate in other parts of the world. Opportunities like this strengthen our department and create connections that will last well beyond the exchange," said Woodstock Fire/Rescue District Chief Brendan Parker.

The visit concluded with a gathering at Woodstock Fire Station 1, where Woodstock Mayor Michael Turner and Guadalupe Mayor Pepe Saldívar joined members to send off the visiting firefighters and recognize the importance of continued cooperation.

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